

Pending Claims:

1-16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method of setting up a communication procedure that is executable on a protocol tester using message sequence charts (MSC) to graphically display the communication procedure between two instances, comprising:

creating a configuration file to be used by the protocol tester, the configuration file including one or more new functions that are not available in an original version of the protocol tester provided by a manufacturer, the configuration file comprising for each of the new functions:

a name for the new function;

a data type for the new function;

an identification of a new description file, the description file comprising code to be used to provide the new function; and

an identification of a new graphic symbol file for the new function, the graphic symbol file corresponding to a new graphic symbol to be displayed on the protocol tester to allow selection of the new function when setting up the communication procedure;

selecting instances involved in the communication procedure;

selecting a protocol layer based upon the selected communication procedure;

selecting abstract communication interfaces of the protocol layer for the communication procedure;

selecting communication data;

setting up the communication procedure through the protocol tester based on the

selections made in the selecting steps, with abstract communications interfaces selecting and the communication data selecting steps being made graphically by modifying a display interface on the protocol tester;

selecting the new function while setting up the communication procedure by graphically selecting the new graphic symbol; and

associating parameters selectable for the new function with the new description file.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein for each parameter of the new function and for a result of the new function, entering into the configuration file a name and a data type.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the graphic symbol is selected from the group consisting of: a display name of the new function, and an icon for the new function, the graphic symbol file comprising display data for the graphic symbol.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the description file is formulated in Forth, Jscript or VBScript.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the configuration file is implemented as a text file selected from the group consisting of an INI format and an XML format.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein data for the new functionality is entered in the configuration file.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the configuration file further includes information on how many additional functions are stored in it, the additional functions not available in the original version of the protocol tester provided by a manufacturer.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein a reading-in of the description file occurs via an include command.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the instances involved in the communication are graphically selected and the protocol layer is graphically selected.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the abstract communication interfaces comprise Service Access Points (SAP).

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the communication data is selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDU) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASP).

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the communication data selecting step comprises:

graphically selecting a data format; and

graphically setting up a communication sequence between the instances involved.

29. (Previously Presented) A protocol tester for testing a communication procedure, comprising:

means for creating a configuration file to be used by the protocol tester, the configuration file including one or more new functions that are not available in an original version of the protocol tester provided by a manufacturer, the configuration file comprising for each of the new functions:

a name for the new function;

a data type for the new function;

an identification of a new description file, the description file comprising code to be used to provide the new function; and

an identification of a new graphic symbol file for the new function, the graphic symbol file corresponding to a new graphic symbol to be displayed on the protocol tester to allow selection of the new function when setting up the communication procedure;

means for selecting instances involved in the communication procedure;

means for selecting a protocol layer based upon the selected communication procedure;

means for selecting abstract communication interfaces of the protocol layer for the communication procedure;

means for selecting communication data;

means for setting up the communication procedure through the protocol tester with the abstract communications interfaces and the communication data begin selected graphically;

means for selecting the new function while setting up the communication procedure by graphically selecting the new graphic symbol; and

means for associating parameters selectable for the new function with the new description file.

30. (Previously Presented) The protocol tester according to claim 29, wherein for each parameter of the new function and for a result of the new function, entering into the configuration file a name and a data type.

31. (Previously Presented) The protocol tester according to claim 29, wherein the graphic symbol is selected from the group consisting of: a display name of the new function, and an icon for the new function, the graphic symbol file comprising display data for the graphic symbol.

32. (Previously Presented) The protocol tester according to claim 29, wherein the description file is formulated in Forth, Jscript or VBScript.

33. (Previously Presented) The protocol tester according to claim 29, wherein the configuration file is implemented as a text file selected from the group consisting of an INI format and an XML format.

34. (Previously Presented) The protocol tester according to claim 29, wherein data for the new functionality is entered in the configuration file.

35. (Previously Presented) The protocol tester according to claim 29, wherein the abstract communication interfaces comprise Service Access Points (SAP).

36. (Previously Presented) The protocol tester according to claim 29, wherein the communication data is selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDU) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASP).